

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 5 have been amended and new claim 7 has been added. Claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendments to the abstract and the specification overcome the objections.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendments to the drawings overcome the objection.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112 (CLAIMS 1-6):

It is respectfully submitted that the present claim amendments overcome the rejection.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Bourne et al.

Independent claim 1 recites that the operation program and/or the associated information specified by the item selected by the operator are displayed on the display screen, the operator confirming and editing the displayed operation program and/or associated information according to the displayed information. These features are illustrated, for example, in present FIGS. 1 and 3.

In contrast, Bourne et al. does not disclose the claimed operator confirming/editing according to displayed information. Instead, FIG. 5A of the reference illustrates a planning and control system 70 including a CAD system 74 and a plurality of experts 80, 82 and 84. The CAD system 74 may be implemented within a UNIX-compatible environment on a workstation computer. Bourne et al., column 15, lines 32-33. However, there is no disclosure of the details of any display on the computer. Even assuming, arguendo, that some information is displayed,

there is no disclosure that this information includes an operation program, or that the operator edits or confirms the displayed operation program.

Columns 2-6, relied upon by the Examiner, also do not disclose these claimed features. Instead, this portion describes manual set-up operations by the operator (column 3, line 67 to column 4, line 1) and UNIX workstation as the core computing resource (column 5, lines 44-47).

Furthermore, a process planner selects necessary hardware such as dies and punches (column 6, lines 62-65). However, there is no disclosure of displaying an operation program.

Furthermore, FIG. 32 discloses a robot gripper selection, and FIG. 47 discloses a tool selection operation but these FIGS. do not relate to displaying an operation program.

Independent claim 1 further recites "communicating means for uploading/downloading an operation program specified by one of the items displayed on the display screen selected by an operator and/or information associated with the operation program between the information processing device and said machine tool, said handling robot or said visual sensor." It is respectfully submitted that the cited reference does not disclose this feature.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

NEW CLAIM 7:

New claim 7 is added and recites "wherein the operation program and/or the associated information specified by the item selected by the operator are displayed on the display screen, the operator confirming and editing the displayed operation program and/or associated information according to the displayed information." Accordingly, claim 7 is patentably distinguishable over the cited reference.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.


Serial No. 10/627,689

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9-27-04

By: 
Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

In the Office Action at item 5, the Examiner objected to the drawings. In order to overcome these objections, replacement figures are submitted herewith. In FIGS. 1 and 5, respectively, the spelling errors have been corrected. For the convenience of the Examiner, an annotated sheet showing the changes made is attached. Approval of these changes to the Drawings is respectfully requested.



1/4

FIG. 1

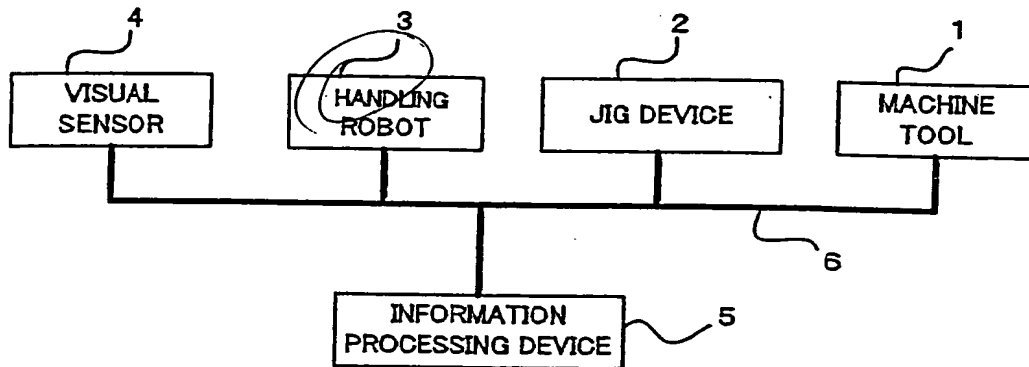


FIG. 2

KIND OF WORKPIECE	VISUAL SENSOR	HANDLING ROBOT	JIG DEVICE	MACHINE TOOL
K1	W001	PNS0001	RIGHT	LX20
K2	W002	PNS0002	LEFT	LX21
K3	W002	PNS0003	RIGHT	LX22
K4	W002	PNS0003	RIGHT	LX23
K5	W003	PNS0004	UP	LX24
K6	W003	PNS0005	DOWN	LX25
K7	W012	PNS0006	RIGHT	LX26
K8	W003	PNS0007	LEFT	LX27

FIG. 5

